

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered). The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for detecting overlapping flat mailpieces in a transport path for mailpieces that are transported vertically in succession, comprising the following steps:

- arranging at least two transport stages ~~(1, 2 or 2, 7, 8)~~ successively in the transport path, wherein each transport stage has a nominal speed, wherein the nominal speed of the a following transport stage (2 or 7, 8) in the a transport direction is in each case being higher than the nominal speed of the transport stage (1 or 2) preceding it,
- measuring ~~the a~~ speed of the transported mailpieces ~~(5, 6)~~ by scanning said items in front of a following transport stage ~~(2 or 7, 8)~~ for a maximum distance that is shorter than ~~the a~~ shortest agreed mailpiece length by means of two sensors ~~(3, 4, 9, 10)~~ that are arranged on either side of the transport path,
- evaluating ~~the~~ measured results if a sensor ~~(3, 4, 9, 10)~~ measures a speed that deviates only slightly by a defined small value from the nominal speed of the following transport stage ~~(2 or 7, 8)~~, and
- detecting an overlap if ~~the~~ simultaneously measured speeds of the two sensors ~~(3, 4 or 9, 10)~~ are different and ~~the a~~ smaller measured speed deviates from ~~the a~~ greater speed by a defined value.

2. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the sensors ~~(3, 4, 9, 10)~~ for measuring the speed of the mailpieces are embodied as locally fixed rollers or belts running on ~~the~~ mailpiece surfaces, ~~the~~ rotational speeds of said rollers or belts serving as a measure for the speed of the mailpieces.

3. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the evaluation of the measured results does not start until after a specified delay time after ~~the a~~ change in speed measured by a sensor ~~(3, 4)~~ to a speed deviating from the nominal speed of the following transport stage ~~(2)~~ only by a specified small value.

4. (currently amended) An arrangement for detecting overlapping flat mailpieces in a transport path for mailpieces that are transported vertically in succession, having:

- at least two transport stages ~~(1, 2 or 2, 7, 8)~~ in succession in the transport path, wherein each transport stage has a nominal speed, and wherein ~~with the nominal speed of the a following transport stage (2 or 7, 8) in the a transport direction in each case being is~~ higher than the nominal speed of ~~the a~~ transport stage ~~(1 or 2)~~ preceding it,

- two sensors ~~(3, 4, 9, 10)~~ arranged on either side of the transport path for measuring ~~the a~~ speed of the transported mailpieces ~~(5, 6)~~ by scanning said items in front of a following transport stage ~~(2 or 7, 8)~~ in each case for a maximum distance that is shorter than ~~the a~~ shortest agreed mailpiece length, and

- a device for evaluating ~~the~~ measured results if a sensor ~~(3, 4, 9, 10)~~ measures a speed that deviates from the nominal speed of the following transport stage ~~(2, 7, 8)~~ only by a defined small value, such that an overlap is detected if ~~the~~ simultaneously measured speeds of the two sensors ~~(3, 4 or 9, 10)~~ are different and ~~the a~~ smaller measured speed deviates from ~~the a~~ greater speed by a specified value.

5. (currently amended) The arrangement as claimed in claim 4, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ the sensors ~~(3, 4, 9, 10)~~ for measuring the speed of the mailpieces are embodied as locally fixed rollers or belts running on ~~the~~ mailpiece surfaces, ~~the wherein~~ rotational speeds of said rollers or belts serve ~~ing~~ as a measure for the speed of the mailpieces.